

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01070 151331Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-14 SSO-00 /019 W

-----104284 151333Z /43 R

O 150830Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6309

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1070

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MASS, SO, US

SUBJ: US/SOMALIA MILITARY RELATIONSHIP

REF: STATE 122389

1. ALTHOUGH I SHARE THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF GSDR ASSISTANCE FOR THE WSLF, I AM LIKE THE BLIND MAN TRYING TO DISCERN THE SHAPE OF THE ELEPHANT. THE INFORMATION I HAVE SEEN IS FRAGMENTARY. I ASSUME THE DECISION TO SUSPEND OUR AGREEMENT WITH THE SOMALIS IS BASED ON MORE THAN THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ME. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD SHARE WITH ME THE COMPILATION OR STUDY WHICH FORMED THE BASIS OF OUR DECISION TO DEFER ACTION NOW THAT WE HAVE SIAD'S ASSURANCES IN HAND.

2. WHAT DOES CONCERN ME PARTICULARLY ARE THE WIDER IMPLICATIONS OF OUR APPARENT DECISION TO DEFER OR REVERSE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO DO HERE IN SOMALIA - BUILD A PRESENCE TO UNDERGIRD STABILITY IN THE HORN. I HAVE NEVER THOUGHT NOR HOPEFULLY HAVE ENCOURAGED THE DEPARTMENT TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A PRESENCE COULD BE ESTABLISHED WITHOUT RISKS OR COSTS. FOR US TO DEFER MOVEMENT ON AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF  
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OUR OVERALL POLICY ON THE GROUNDS OF INCONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE SEEMS QUESTIONABLE TO ME. BY REFUSING TO ACT NOW, AFTER ASSURING SIAD WE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO MOVE PROMPTLY AS SOON AS WE HAD HIS LETTER IN HAND, IS TO CONTEST HIS WORD. THE DEPARTMENT MAY FIND SIAD'S RESPONSE TO MY DEMARCHE OF MAY 6 NOT REASSURING, BUT IT MUST ACCEPT THAT IN MAKING THE FINDING WE ARE SETTING UP A CONFRONTATION

WITH THE SOMALI LEADER. I BELIEVE THIS DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR THE FUTURE OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP OR US CAPABILITY TO INFLUENCE EVENTS IN THE AREA. SIAD HAS MADE IT CLEAR AN ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP CANNOT BE A HOSTAGE TO GOOD BEHAVIOR BY THE WSLF.

3. THE EMBASSY DISCUSSED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN MOGADISCIO 0549, AN AIDAC CABLE DATED MARCH 16. IN THAT DOCUMENT WE PRESENTED THOUGHTS ON AN EXPANDED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. I BELIEVE THE PRIORITIES SET FORTH THEREIN: AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND MANPOWER TRAINING ARE THOSE THAT WE WOULD WANT TO FOLLOW UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY ARE NOT HIGH VISIBILITY EFFORTS BUT DO SERVE AS SYMBOLS OF OUR CONTINUED INTEREST IN THE GSDR. NO ASSISTANCE EFFORT, HOWEVER, WILL TAKE THE PLACE IN SIAD'S MIND OF THE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP HE IS SEEKING WITH THE USG.

4. I HOPE THAT NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS IN NAIROBI WILL AFFORD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER THE ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP AND RELATED TOPICS WITH BILL HARROP. I AGREE EMPHATICALLY THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE GSDR TO CONCENTRATE UPON ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, BUT WHEN A STATE CONCEIVES ITSELF TO BE THREATENED BY AN OVERWHELMING EXTERNAL DANGER, IT'S INEVITABLE TENDENCY IS TO LOOK FIRST TO ITS SECURITY. WHILE BILL AND I ARE  
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TRYING TO ENLIGHTEN ONE ANOTHER, I STRONGLY URGE THE DEPARTMENT KEEP THE QUESTION OF THE ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP HIGH ON ITS ACTION DOCKET.  
LOUGHRAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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